



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **ROCKFORD MEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE 500 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; GARY G. OLENKIEWICZ, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; CHET EPPERSON, Rockford Police Chief; and THOMAS LACHETA, Sauk Village Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

**OSIC BERNARD PUCKETT**, 38, and **TROY NEELY**, 35, both of Rockford, Illinois, were arraigned in federal court in Rockford today on federal charges of conspiring to distribute approximately 500 pounds of marijuana. According to the complaint, on July 22, 2009, the Sauk Village Police Department responded to a complaint of a strong odor of cannabis coming from a moving storage pod located at a freight terminal in Sauk Village, Illinois. Upon investigation, an officer's trained K-9 dog gave an alert indicating the probable presence of narcotics within the trailer. After obtaining a search warrant, officers located 505 pounds of marijuana inside the trailer. On July 24, 2009, DEA and Rockford Police Officers watched while the pod was delivered to its destination in Rockford, Illinois. Several hours later the defendants were arrested in possession of the marijuana.

The charge contained in the complaint carries a minimum possible sentence of 5 years imprisonment, with a maximum sentence of 40 years imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000,000, and up to 5 years of supervised release. The actual sentence would be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the federal Sentencing Guidelines and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

This case was jointly investigated by the Rockford Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department and the Stateline Area Narcotics Team, with the cooperation of the Sauk Village Illinois Police Department. The case in federal court is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney MARK T. KARNER.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to indictment by a federal grand jury and a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving the guilt of each defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

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